SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Washington 25, D. C.

-- NEWS RELEASE DATE

Immediate release

Washington, D. C., June 21, 1955.--The Smithsonian Institution is at present completing arrangements for a special loan exhibition of "GERMAN DRAWINGS, MASTERPIECES FROM FIVE CENTURIES." Organized in cooperation with the West German Government, this exhibition will present the development of German graphic art from the fifteenth century to 1850 through outstanding examples lent by more than 20 museums and private owners.

The collection is the first of its kind ever to come to the United States. In fact, the subject has not been treated before with such completeness and breadth, even in Germany. Rare and magnificent drawings by such masters as Martin Schongauer, Albrecht Dürer, Lucas Cranach, Matthias Grünewald, Hans Holbein, Wolf Huber, and others will be included in the survey. Dr. Peter Halm, noted expert in the field of drawings, will make the selection.

Because of the extraordinary value of the drawings, the loan is by necessity limited to a few leading U. S. museums. After a first showing at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D. C., during October, the exhibition will travel to Cleveland, Ohio; San Francisco, Calif.; Boston, Mass.; and New York City. H. E. the German Ambassador will sponsor the exhibition during its seven-month tour. An illustrated catalogue with introduction by Dr. Peter Halm, Director of the Graphische Sammlung in Munich, will be published. Dr. Halm will accompany the exhibition to the United States.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS, please write to Mrs. John A. Pope, Chief, Traveling Exhibition Service, Smithsonian Institution, Washington 25, D. C.